

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as indicated below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A composition for use in a purgative, the composition comprising:

- (i) at least one water-soluble sodium salt;
- (ii) at least one water-soluble minimally degradable sugar, wherein the total weight of the water-soluble minimally degradable sugar in the composition is from about 1 to about 3 times the weight of sodium salt in the composition;
- (iii) at least one water-soluble potassium salt, wherein the weight of the water-soluble potassium salt in the composition is from about 0.05 to about 1 times the weight of the sodium salt in the composition; and
- (iv) at least one water-soluble magnesium salt, wherein the weight of magnesium salt in the composition is from about 0.1 to about 10 times the weight of sodium salt in the composition.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the minimally degradable sugar is selected from the group consisting of xylose, xylotriose, xylooligosaccharides, fructooligosaccharides, fructosans, galactooligosaccharides, other oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The compositions of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble sodium salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, sodium gluconate, sodium citrate, sodium aspartate and mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble potassium salt is selected from the group consisting of potassium chloride and potassium tartrate.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble magnesium salt is selected from the group consisting of magnesium sulfate, magnesium citrate and magnesium phosphate.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a flavouring ingredient, a detergent stool-softening agent, citrate, lactate, acetate, trace elements and nutritional elements.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 1 in the form of a soup or soup-like composition, tablet, gel cap, capsule or sachet.

8. (Original) A purgative, comprising a hypertonic aqueous solution of the composition of claim 1.

9. (Original) The purgative of claim 8 in the form of a unit dose having a volume of from about 0.2 to 0.5L and wherein the sodium salt or salts are present in an amount from about 1 to about 10g per unit dose, the minimally degradable sugar or sugars in an amount of from about 2 to about 20g, the potassium salt or salts in an amount of from about 0.5 to about 5g and the magnesium salt or salts in an amount of from about 1 to about 10g per unit dose of the purgative.

10. (Previously presented) A method of inducing purgation of the colon of a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to the patient a composition of claim 1 in an amount effective to induce purgation of the patient's colon.

11. (Previously presented) A method of inducing purgation of the colon of a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to the patient a composition of a purgative of claim 8 in an amount effective to induce purgation of the patient's colon.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for treatment or prevention of one or more than one condition selected from the group consisting of lavage-associated hyponatremia, hypoosmolality, nausea, malaise, vomiting, headache and convulsions, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a composition of claim 1 whereby lavage-associated hyponatremia, hypoosmolality, nausea, malaise, vomiting, headache or convulsions is treated or prevented.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for treatment or prevention of one or more than one condition selected from the group consisting of lavage-associated hyponatremia, hypoosmolality, nausea, malaise, vomiting, headache and convulsions, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a purgative of claim 8, whereby lavage-associated hyponatremia, hypoosmolality, nausea, malaise, vomiting, headache or convulsions is treated or prevented.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prevention of acute gastrointestinal infections, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a composition of claim 1, whereby acute gastrointestinal infection is treated or prevented.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prevention of acute gastrointestinal infections, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a purgative of claim 8, whereby acute gastrointestinal infection is treated or prevented.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prevention of constipation, acute constipation, chronic constipation or constipation predominant irritable bowel syndrome, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a composition of claim 1, whereby constipation, acute constipation, chronic constipation or constipation predominant irritable bowel syndrome is treated or prevented.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prevention of constipation, acute constipation, chronic constipation or constipation predominant irritable bowel syndrome, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a purgative of claim 8, whereby constipation, acute constipation, chronic constipation or constipation predominant irritable bowel syndrome is treated or prevented.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for pre-colonoscopy or pre-surgical lavage, comprising administering to a patient a composition of claim 1.

19. – 33. (Cancelled).

34. (Withdrawn) A method for pre-colonoscopy or pre-surgical lavage, comprising administering to a patient a purgative of claim 8.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the purgative of claim 8 is administered as a simple purgative, an electrolyte replacement lavage, a barium enema preparation, a CT “virtual colonoscopy” preparation lavage, a radiological application preparation lavage, an electrolyte replacement lavage, an electrolyte replacement lavage for acute gastrointestinal infection, a treatment for acute or chronic constipation and related symptoms, a treatment for constipation predominant irritable bowel syndrome, a regular laxative, or a treatment or prevention of lavage-associated hyponatremia, hypoosmolality, nausea, malaise, vomiting, headache or convulsions.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the composition of claim 1 is administered as a simple purgative, an electrolyte replacement lavage, a barium enema preparation lavage, a CT “virtual colonoscopy” preparation lavage, a radiological application preparation lavage, an electrolyte replacement lavage, an electrolyte replacement lavage for acute gastrointestinal infection, a treatment for acute or chronic constipation and related symptoms, a treatment for constipation predominant irritable bowel syndrome, a regular laxative, or a treatment or prevention of lavage-associated hyponatremia, hypoosmolality, nausea, malaise, vomiting, headache or convulsions.

37. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the minimally degradable sugar is xylose.

38. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein:

- (i) the water-soluble sodium salt comprises sodium chloride;
- (ii) the water-soluble minimally degradable sugar comprises xylose;
- (iii) the water-soluble potassium salt comprises potassium chloride; and
- (iv) the water-soluble magnesium salt comprises magnesium sulfate.

39. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising one or more further additives selected from among a citrate, a lactate, an acetate, calcium, zinc, Vitamin B complex, thiamine, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, folic acid and biotin.